

clear and comprehensive. The sections on Joints and Muscles are beyond criticism. The work, as a descriptive atlas, leaves nothing to be desired.

PAUL PILCHER.

DISEASES OF THE DIGESTIVE SYSTEM. Edited by FRANK BILLINGS, M.D., 8vo., pp. 824. D. Appleton & Company, New York, 1906.

"Die Deutsche Klinik," edited by Julius L. Salinger, M.D., is being made available for English readers in the series of volumes on Modern Clinical Medicine, now three in number, of which the present volume is one. The list of contributors is perhaps the best critique of its merits: Ewald, Boas, Hoppe-Seyler, Nothnagel, Leo, Strauss, Neusser, Rosenheim, Riegel, Hirschfeld, Oser, Minkowski, Stadelmann, Kraus, Fleiner, Vierordt, Strasburger. One can add nothing to the authority with which these men speak.

The chapters of this work are each complete separate articles contributed by the clinicians mentioned, independent but correlated by the general subject of digestive diseases.

If one were to choose from among so many noteworthy contributions, possibly the one by Oser, of Vienna, on the Symptomatology of the Diseases of the Pancreas would first arrest attention, if only on account of the obscurity from which pancreatic diseases and their determination are just emerging. Associated as it is with the liver, deeply hidden in the abdomen and so difficult of digital appreciation, it has been long neglected, even in necropsies; while its rapid self-digestion post mortem has helped to obscure its pathology.

Recent work on the normal and abnormal constitution of the fæces and on the physiology of proteid and hydrocarbon digestion has directed attention to the functions of the pancreas and seems to offer certain points of diagnostic value in the estimation of pancreatic activity. Collective reports on the pathology of the organ have demonstrated its relation to some forms of diabetes, so that the analysis of the urine offers some help. The conclusions drawn in Oser's article are these: Pancreatic disease may be reasonably assumed when examination of the fæces shows a disturbance in the digestion of albumin as

evidenced by undigested meat, and insufficient fat digestion, other causes being discounted. The details of the article cannot be considered here.

An exceedingly interesting contribution is that by Riegel on the diagnosis and treatment of gastric dilatation, as is one by Ewald on gastric ulcer and gastric hæmorrhage. The latter modestly points to a personal experience of over 1250 cases. The etiology he declares to be not yet satisfactorily explained, except where direct trauma can be proven. A valuable table comparing the symptoms of nervous gastralgia, ulcer and cancer is included. Under Treatment he advocates in general the method by large doses of bismuth in suspension, appropriate diet and laxative alkaline drinks—as Carlsbad water. Surgical intervention is advocated only after persistent medical efforts have failed, and in selected cases.

The section on the examination of the fæces, by Strasburger, is remarkable for its excellent illustrations—many in color—of normal and abnormal fecal constituents. Its brevity is compensated for by its lucid presentation.

Fleiner presents an excellent contribution on diarrhœa, intestinal catarrh and intestinal tuberculosis; Boas one on constipation and hæmorrhoids, and Vierordt one on acute diffuse peritonitis, appendicitis and perityphilitis. Space prevents enumeration and discussion of the other articles, all of which are notable.

The work will prove a valuable addition to every working library.

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